

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NOTAM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 346, the "NOTAM Improvement Act of 2023", which will be beneficial to the modernization of the safety, efficiency, and productivity of the future of aviation in the United States of America.

Specifically, this bill aims to reinvigorate the current system of Notice to Air Missions (NOTAMs) by pinpointing failures within the existing standards. This will be achieved by:

Aligning the NOAM and aeronautical information systems under a single governing office with the authority to standardize and ensure compliance with FAA Orders and ICAO requirements.

Redesigning the current NOTAM information management system with single technology gateways for entering, processing, and retrieving all NOTAM data.

Creating a unified training and outreach strategy for federal and non-federal NOTAM users.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Homeland Security and the Budget, it is my pleasure to support and urge members to strongly consider H.R. 346.

This bill aims to modernize flight across all The United States of America and not only increase the safety of the existing system of Notice to Air Missions (NOTAMs) but maximize its efficacy.

Mr. Speaker, hundreds of flights were grounded Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at Houston airports and across the nation's airports, domestic and international which the Federal Aviation Authority reported as a nationwide outage that was felt across the country.

Millions of Americans were grounded away from their homes, families and loved ones. The cause of this devastating outage was attributed to a computer system glitch.

More than 21,000 flights in the U.S. were scheduled to take off on January 11, 2023, mostly domestic trips, and about 1,840 international flights expected to fly to the U.S., according to aviation data firm Cirium.

"The FAA's infrastructure is a lot more than just brick and mortar." Investment in the agency is set to be addressed this year by Congress when the 5 year FAA Reauthorization Act signed in 2018 expires. Strong consideration for this bill should be thoughtfully considered.

Throughout the years we have lagged in advancing our aviation systems. The tragic events that transpired earlier this year could have been avoided, but "Because of budgetary concerns and flexibility of budget, this tech refresh has been pushed off."

AOPA recently surveyed 30,000 members about improving Notice to Air Missions

(NOTAMs), and 77 percent of respondents said making Notice to Air Missions (NOTAMs) easier to understand was important while 46 percent said addressing the number of Notice to Air Missions (NOTAMs) was important.

Sources and tragic instances have continuously given us warning signs plus evidence that our NOTAM system is an example of aging infrastructure that is considerably due for an overhaul.

This bill firmly establishes the strategic steps towards harnessing the will power of strengthening our domestic air space, our nationwide digital aviation infrastructure and cybersecurity measures.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of H.R. 346, the "NOTAM Improvement Act of 2023".

HONORING FORMER REPRESENTATIVE JAMES T. KOLBE

HON. DARRELL ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 27, 2023

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and public service exemplified by former Congressman James Thomas Kolbe.

With deep sadness, we mourn the loss of Congressman Jim Kolbe, who passed away on December 3, 2022 after a dedicated career of service to the Congress, his community, and his beloved Arizona.

A teenage Senate Page, Kolbe graduated from Northwestern University with a bachelor's degree in political science in 1965 and received a master's degree from the Stanford Graduate School of Business in 1967. He entered the Navy that year and served in combat duty on gunboats in the Mekong Delta during the Vietnam War for which he was awarded the Congressional Medal for Valor. After working as a Special Assistant to the Governor of Illinois, in 1976 he was elected to the first of his 3 terms as a member of the Arizona State Senate. 1984 saw his first election to the House of Representatives and Arizona's Fifth Congressional District. He represented his constituents with true distinction, a creative and conscientious legislator who consistently reached across the aisle and worked closely with colleagues across the political spectrum. A fierce champion of free trade and free markets, Pima County and Southern Arizona could always count on Jim Kolbe.

I extend sincere condolences to his spouse, Hector Alfonso, his family, and loved ones. I am grateful to have served with a public servant and public leader like Jim Kolbe. He will be missed.

STRATEGIC PRODUCTION RESPONSE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 21) to provide for the development of a plan to increase oil and gas production under oil and gas leases of Federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Defense in conjunction with a drawdown of petroleum reserves from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve:

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 21, the Strategic Production Response Act. Republicans brought H.R. 21 to the House Floor today to prohibit the Department of Energy from releasing oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) until it expands oil and gas drilling on federal lands by the same percentage that it releases oil from the SPR.

House Republicans are once again doing the bidding of their Big Oil friends at Americans' expense, while threatening the President's ability to take timely action to lower prices for American consumers. When Putin invaded Ukraine and the oil prices soared worldwide, President Biden acted quickly to release oil from the SPR helping to lower gas prices for American families by \$1.69 per gallon since their peak. Restricting the federal government's best tool in the middle of a global energy crisis—with no benefit other than increasing the profits of the fossil fuel industry—is a disservice and will harm working families who will bear the brunt of this decision.

The fossil fuel industry is already sitting on approximately 9,000 approved but unused permits for drilling on public lands because they are more concerned with keeping supply artificially low so that prices can stay artificially high to line their own pockets. This legislation could result in giving the fossil fuel industry an additional over 30 million acres of public lands for new oil and gas drilling—that is over 5 times the size of Minnesota, and 8 times the amount of public lands and waters currently available for oil and gas development.

This bill will only make us more dependent on fossil fuels. The growing threat of climate change is real, and in order to protect our planet, we must reduce carbon emissions and embrace a sustainable energy future. Congress should use its power to invest in developing alternative energy sources and expanding federal incentives making them more affordable for American consumers.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.